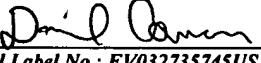


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application)
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 Applicants: Nankumo et al.) States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to:
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 Filed: November 26, 2003) 11-26-03
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)			Attorney Docket No.: 3408.68768		Serial No.:
			Applicant: Nankumo et al.		
			Filing Date: 11-26-03		Group:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,018,505*	Jan. 25, 2000	Miyatake et al.	369	13	Jan. 17, 1997
	5,959,942**	Sep. 28, 1999	Taguchi et al.	369	13	Apr. 29, 1997

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	9-198734	Jul. 31, 1997	Japan			Abs.	
	10-188385	Jul. 21, 1998	Japan			Abs.	
	1-319146	Dec. 25, 1989	Japan			Abs.	
	8-241544	Sep. 17, 1996	Japan			Abs.	
	9-204706	Aug. 5, 1997	Japan			Abs.	
	11-238264	Aug. 31, 1999	Japan			Abs.	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
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*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Corresponds to JP 9-198734

**Corresponds to JP 10-188385

<p>Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)</p>	Attorney Docket No.: 3408.68768	Serial No.:
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2-156450	Jun. 15, 1990	Japan			Abs.	
	6-119604	Apr. 28, 1994	Japan			Abs.	
	10-188202	Jul. 21, 1998	Japan			Abs..	
	2002-298461	Oct. 11, 2002	Japan			Abs.	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

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